Glossary of Terms

Areas-of-No-Significant-Sediment (ANuSS)	flatter parts of some watersheds that are more than 2000 feet from a concentrated flow water course, depressional or at least less than 2% in slope, and are not impacted directly by run-on water.
Bank Full	a term usually associated with a channel-forming flow of approximately a 1.5 year return. The within-channel indicators of this flow are used in assigning lateral recession rates and calculating total channel erosion.
Delivered Sediment	sediment produced by erosion in a watershed that actually reaches the outlet end of the watershed. This is generally only a small percentage of the entire sediment produced.
Diamicton	a general term for unsorted, unstratified rock debris composed of a wide range of particle sizes. Although no origin is implied with this term, most of the diamicton in Illinois is glacial till.
Drainage Density	an arbitrary term used to characterize stream dissection. Generally, it is the *feet* of channels (or miles) per square mile of watershed.
Drainage Texture	an arbitrary term used to characterize stream dissection. Generally, it is the *number* of channels per square mile of watershed.
Dynamic Equilibrium (for streams)	a concept that says changes can and do occur within stream systems in regard to erosion, sediment production, changes in shape and form of channels, etc., but these changes maintain an overall balance between in-flow and out-flow of materials and energy.
Ephemerals or Ephemeral Erosion	small channels formed as rills enlarge and coalesce into concentrated flow areas. These are small enough that they are generally destroyed each year with normal tillage operations.
FOTG	the NRCS Field Office Technical Guide, used by technically trained people to plan, apply and maintain appropriate conservation practices.
Geomorphic Unit (GU)	a rather arbitrary separation of landscapes into grouping based on similar soils, slopes, and expected rates of erosion and sedimentation.
Intermittent Streams	those watercourses that only have water present in them during the high flow times of the year, especially in the spring and fall. A few of these intermittent streams will have a flood plain associated with them.
Knickpoint	an overfall or abrupt break in the base of a channel that often times marks a change in geologic material or indicates a different erosion cycle.
Lateral Recession Rate (Annual)	the thickness of soil eroded from a gully or stream bank surface, perpendicular to the face, in an average year. Serve as the thickness component of the standard equation for volume of: Length x Height x Width (thickness) = Volume of soil eroded
Loess	windblown homogeneous dust that tends to form massive, unconsolidated but slightly coherent deposits. Originally deposited as the glaciers receded and water-laid glacial outwash was exposed to the drying action and energy of predominantly westerly winds. Loess blankets nearly the entire state in varying thicknesses and serves as a parent material for many of our present-day soils.

Parent Material	the geologic material in which our present day soils formed. Most common parent materials in Illinois are loess, glacial till, glacial outwash, alluvium, and bedrock residuum.
Perennial Streams	those watercourses that have water present in them during the entire year with only minor exceptions to this, for example for a few weeks in the summer. Some of these will have flood plains and some will not.
Physiographic Divisions	generalized geographic separations made in the state based on topography of the bedrock surface; extent of the several glaciations; differences in glacial morphology; differences in age of the uppermost deposits; height of the glacial plain above main lines of drainage; glaciofluvial aggradation of basin areas; and glaciolacustrine action.
Random Stratified Sampling	a method of sampling a watershed in which the target population (the total watershed) is divided into groups (GU's) called strata for the purpose of obtaining a better estimate of the mean for the entire population. Stratification involves the use of categorical variables to form groups that have similar natural resource concerns.
Sediment (aerated)	material deposited in a watershed that is subject to drying cycles. This allows the sediment to consolidate.
Sediment (submerged)	material deposited in a watershed through or within a body of water. Generally, these are not subject to drying and therefore does not consolidate.
Sediment Delivery Rate (SDR)	the percentage of erosion-produced sediment that is moved to the field edge and is ready for further movement, generally as part of a channel system. Varies for each type of erosion
Sediment Transport Factor (STF)	the percentage of sediment that the entire stream system will efficiently and effectively move through.
Sink	depositional area for sediment in a watershed. Can be small depressions within a watershed or the stream or lake (ultimate sink) at the watershed outlet.
Thalweg	the lowest or deepest points (channel) along a stream bed.
Till (glacial)	unsorted, unstratified rock debris composed of a wide variety of particle sizes that was deposited directly by or underneath a glacier. Often times contains the sand, gravel, and boulders that make up the bed load of many of our streams.
Top-of-Bank	understood to be the actual highest elevation of the stream bank. If the channel is not incised, top-of-bank and bankfull can be the same. Generally, this is not the case in Illinois.
Weathering	the process of physical disintegration and chemical decomposition in which rock and soil material change color, texture, composition, or form upon exposure to air and water.